



The State of New Hampshire
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner



January 8, 2008

Representative James Phinizy, Chairman
Environment and Agriculture Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 303
Concord, NH 03301

SUBJECT: HCR-17 A RESOLUTION encouraging the use of reusable shopping bags

Dear Chairman Phinizy and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Concurrent Resolution 17. This legislation recognizes the value in encouraging the use of reusable shopping bags, thereby minimizing the adverse effects of disposable plastic shopping bags on the environment and the unnecessary consumption of natural resources.

The Department of Environmental Services has made reusable shopping bags available to employees through our Public Information office. These bags are made from recycled plastic. Encouraging the use of bags like these by the general public will provide additional markets for recycled plastics and reduce the impact on the environment of disposable bags. Several states and municipalities, including the City of San Francisco, have already banned the use of plastic bags by supermarkets and pharmacies and are considering expanding the restriction to other retail entities. In New Hampshire, several retail merchants already offer reusable bags at their checkout counters.

The Department supports the passage of HCR-17. If you have any questions regarding this letter of testimony, please do not hesitate to call me or Michael Wimsatt, Waste Management Division Director, at 271-2905.

Sincerely,

Thomas S. Burack
Commissioner

cc: HCR 17 Sponsors
Michael J. Wimsatt, P.G., Director, Waste Management Division
Donald E. Maurer, Waste Management Division